

Message Text

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56

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

DHA-02 ORM-02 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 OFA-01 COME-00

EB-07 EPA-04 NSF-02 OES-05 INT-05 ACDA-10 NRC-07

DOT-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /134 W
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R 220605Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7333

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS CANBERRA 532

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS

AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE POLICIES ARE STILL COMMANDING FRONT PAGE TREATMENT IN THE PRESS. PRIME MINISTER'S PRONOUNCEMENT THAT HE IS ESCHEWING THE FORMER GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF NEUTRALIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS "AN IDEA WHICH HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS", MADE THE HEADLINES. IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, THE PRESS REPORTS STRONG LABOR UNION OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF THE YET-TO-BE COMPLETED COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE FOR NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS. UNIONISTS CLAIM AN ACCIDENTAL LEAK WOULD POLUTE THE OCEAN ENVIRONMENT.

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IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS, INDONESIA'S ROLE IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR IS

THE MAJOR ISSUE WITH THE MEDIA. EXTENSIVE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER FRASER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO KUALA LUMPUR FOR THE FUNERAL OF TUN RAZAK, AND THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN SINGAPORE, AND IN JAKARTA BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS. INDONESIA CONTINUES TO BE THE TARGET OF BITTER EDITORIAL AND NEWS COLUMNS AS WELL AS A SPATE OF LETTERS TO THE EDITORS. A UNION BOYCOTT OF THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA HAS BEEN VOTED BY THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, ALTHOUGH ITS IMPACT HAS NOT BEEN GREAT THUS FAR. A FEW PAPERS HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY TO THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE CALLING FOR INCREASED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA. WIDE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOME 800 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENTER AUSTRALIA. CONTINUING INTEREST IN ALL MEDIA HAS BEEN SHOWN IN DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AND ANGOLA. EVENTS IN THE US WERE NOT OVERLOOKED WITH THE NAMING OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HARGROVE PROMPTING ANOTHER CRITICAL STORY IN THE BULLETIN, BUT ONLY STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE IN MOST OF THE PRESS. THE STATE OF THE UNION AND THE BUDGET MESSAGES DREW STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE, AS DID THE US ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CIA REVELATIONS. PROGRAM: SYDNEY'S BICENTENNIAL PREPARATIONS CONTINUED A FAST-MOVING PACE WITH EIGHT MAJOR THEATRICAL GROUPS, TWO DANCE COMPANIES AND TWO MUSIC GROUPS PREPARING TO PERFORM AMERICAN WORKS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. MOUNT

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